of royalty rates for consideration of the Government. The Central Government has constituted a Study Group on 5.10.1998 under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Mines) to suggest revision in the rates of royalty on minerals other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. As per Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1975, there is no specific stipulation of periodicity for carrying out revision of royalty rates. The rate of royalty on Lignite was last revised in 1990. However, the rates of royalty for minerals (other than Coal, Lignite and Sand for Stowing) were revised on 11.4.97 while, the royalty rates for Coal were revised on 11.10.94.

Potential for Solar Energy

2235. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the estimated potential for solar energy is 20,000 MW;

(b) if so, Government's plans to exploit this potential; and

(c) the present total installed capacity and the plan to increase the capacity during the Ninth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The estimated solar radiation received over the land surface of India is about 5,000 trillion kilowatt hours per year. In electrical terms, a generating capacity of 20-35 MW can be established using one square kilometre of land area. This potential is vast. However, the actual utilisation depends on the economics of solar energy systems compared to conventional energy devices and conventional energy costs. The utilisation also depends on the technology adopted, the application to be served, the geographic region, etc. To exploit the solar energy potential optimally and in an economic manner, Government is implementing a countrywide programme for the installation of solar energy systems for applications such as lighting, water pumping, village power, water heating, cooking, etc. A number of incentives like central subsidy, soft loan, 100% accelerated depreciation, concessional duty imports and exemption from excise duty on certain devices and systems have been provided by the Government.

(c) A number of solar energy devices and systems have been installed in the country so far, including 2,47,065 solar lanterns, 99,079 home lighting systems, 38,013 street lights, 3,106 photovoltaic water pumping systems, 889kW aggregate capacity of stand alone power plants, 1,040 KW aggregate capacity of grid connected power plants, about 4,60,000 sq. m. solar thermal collector area and about 4,80,000 solar cookers. The total capacity of photovoltaic systems installed is about 41 MW.

During the 9th Plan period it is proposed to install 3,00,000 solar lanterns, 2,00,000 home lighting systems, 4,000 photovoltaic water pumping systems, solar power plants and other PV systems of 1.6 MW aggregate capacity, grid connected PV power plants of 1.5 MW aggregate capcity, 2,50,000 sq. m. of salar thermal collectors and 1,50,000 solar cookers.

Potential for Wind Energy

2236. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the estimated potential for wind energy is 20,000 MWs;

(b) if so, Government's plans to exploit this potential; and

(c) the present total installed capacity and the plan to increase the capacity during the Ninth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the Wind Power Programme, a capacity of 1077 MW has already been installed in the country, which includes demonstration projects of 55 MW capacity, and commercial projects of 1022 MW set up through private investments. About 5 billion units of electricity have been fed to the respective State grids from these projects. 177 potential sites in 13 States/UTs have been identified for wind power projects. Fiscal and promotional incentives are available for commercial projects. Attractive policies have been announed by the State Governments for wheeling, banking and buy-back of electricity generated from wind power projects. Soft loans are also available from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) for wind power projects. A target of 1000 MW has been fixed for wind power capacity addition for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Disposal of Inorganic and Hazardous wastes

2237. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the Government's policy to attract latest technology for disposal of inorganic wastes in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that a number of waste disposal companies around the World get Tipping Fees for disposal of inorganic and hazardous wastes; and

(c) if so, the Tipping Charges, [illegible], paid to such companies in developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) As per the information received